

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 SAM-01 ORM-03 SR-02 EUR-25 ACDA-19

DRC-01 /157 W

----- 026475

R 291310Z JUL 74

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5967

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JERUSALEM 1519

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PINS, IS, JO

SUBJECT: JEWISH SETTLEMENT ATTEMPT ON WEST BANK

REF: JERUSALEM 1510; TEL AVIV 4245

1. SUMMARY. NEWS MEDIA REPORT GROUP ATTEMPTING TO SET UP NEW JEWISH SETTLEMENT AT SEBASTIA ON WEST BANK WERE REMOVED IN BUSES EARLY JULY 29 AFTER GOI REFUSED PERMISSION FOR THEM TO REMAIN AT THAT LOCATION. MILGOV WARNED LOCAL RESIDENTS AGAINST GENERAL STRIKE THAT WAS THREATENED IN NABLUS FOR JULY 29 IF SETTLERS NOT REMOVED. NABLUS MAYOR SENT CABLES OF PROTEST TO ISRAELI AUTHORITIES, UN AND GOREIGN CONGENS. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING GOI DECISION THAT SETTLERS WOULD HAVE TO LEAVE SEBASTIA SITE NEAR NABLUS BY 8:30 P.M. (LATER EXTENDED TO 9:00 P.M.) JULY 28, NEWS MEDIA REPORT GROUP OF SETTLERS AND
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SYMPATHIZERS TOTALING ABOUT 1,000 WERE TAKEN FROM AREA IN BUSES

EARLY JULY 29. VIOLENT CONFRONTATION APPARENTLY AVOIDED WHEN SETTLERS OFFERED ONLY PASSIVE RESISTENCE TO ARMY.

3. NABLUS MAYOR HAJ MAZOUZ AL MASRI LED WEST BANK PROTEST ACTIVITY OVER WEEKEND, GAPPEDLY DISPATCHING CABLES OF PROTEST TO ISRAELI MILGOV AUTHORITIES, UN SYG, AND US, UK, AND FRENCH CONGENS IN JERUSALEM. (WE HAVE RECEIVED NONE SO FAR.) TULKARM MAYOR HAS SIMILARLY PROTESTED TO GOI. CABLES SAID TO OBJECT TO "INVASION OF ARAB LAND" AND NOTED SETTLERS' ACTION WAS HARMFUL TO PEACE EFFORTS. TKTTER POINT ALSO MADE IN ARABIC DAILY AL QUDS EDITORIAL JULY 29, WHICH ARGUES THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW SETTLEMENTS NOT CONSISTENT WITH ISRAELI CALL FOR NEGOTIATIONS "WITHOUT CONDITIONS".

4. GENERAL STRIKE AND PUBLIC RALLY WAS THREATENED IN NABLUS FOR JULY 29 IF SETTLERS NOT REMOVED, BUT AL QUDS REPORTS THAT NABLUS CHAMER OF COMMERCE OFFICIALS WERE WARNED AGAINST CLOSURE OF BUSINESSES OR ANY "BREACH OF SECURITY". WE HAVE RECEIVED UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF DEMONSTRATIONS IN NABLUS OVER WEEKEND, BUT MAIN ACTIVITY APPEARS TO HAVE CONSISTED OF VISITS TO CITY HALL BY NUMEROUS ARAB DELEGATIONS FROM NEIGHBORING TOWNS AND VILLAGES TO REGISTER SOLIDARITY WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES' OPPOSITION TO SETTLERS' ACTIVITY. SOME 40 ISRAELI JEWS REPORTEDLY JOINED WEST BANKERS IN THESE PROTESTS.

5. COMMENT: WHILE GOI REMAINED FIRM IN FORCING SETTLERS TO MOVE, INDICATIONS ARE THAT THEY MAY WELL BE PERMITTED TO ESTABLISH THEMSELVES "LEGALLY" ELSEWHERE ON WEST BANK. (GROUP IS NOW ASSEMBLED AT JERUSALEM YESHIVA, REPORTEDLY DETERMINED TO TRY AGAIN WITHIN A MONTH, WITH OR WITHOUT GOI PERMISSION.) WEST BANKERS, OF COURSE, VIEW ALL ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AS "ILLEGAL" AND WILL CERTAINLY BE NO LESS DISTURBED IF SETTLEMENT IS SET UP ULTIMATELY WITH GOI SANCTION, WHETHER NEAR NABLUS OR JORDAN VALLEY. REPORTS IN RECENT WEEKS OF PLANS BY ANOTHER GROUP TO ESTABLISH NEW SETTLEMENT AT JERICHO HAVE ALSO CAUSED INCREASED CONCERN AMONG LOCAL RESIDENTS.

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